



UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AREA WATERMASTER
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REPORT OF ULARA WATERMASTER

STATUS CONFERENCE of JANUARY 15, 2016 SUPERIOR COURT, DEPARTMENT 52 HONORABLE SUSAN BRYANT-DEASON

A. Ongoing Watermaster Activities

1. A Draft of the past due Annual Watermaster Report for Water Year 2013-2014 is in progress; the Watermaster and the A/C Committee have formed a subcommittee to streamline and simplify the text and current appendices in the Annual Report, while still retaining the more important information and basic data published in the report.
2. The Annual Groundwater Pumping and Spreading Plan for the 5-year period of Water Years 2013-14 through 2017-18 is in progress.
3. The Watermaster has been in contact with DWR regarding new requirements as part of the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (known as SGMA) in California. As an adjudicated region, the possible reporting requirements for the Watermaster to DWR to become compliant with SGMA will likely only necessitate the submittal of the Annual Watermaster Report and a copy of the original Judgment. The Watermaster attended a Workshop hosted by DWR on this matter on October 22. DWR will provide more information in the future.
4. The Watermaster continues to meet with the USEPA, LADWP, key PRPs in the North Hollywood Operable Unit (NHOU), and with key consultants for those PRPs, regarding the Second Interim Remedy (NHOU2IR). The key issue continues to be the basic progress of computer modeling of the SFB by others, and the proposed cleanup of groundwater contamination in the NHOU. These meetings are for technical representatives only; attorneys are not invited.
5. The Watermaster continues to maintain compliance with DWR on its California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program (known as CASGEM) for the four groundwater basins within ULARA. The most recent data upload to the CASGEM website for ULARA occurred on November 1, 2015 for all data collected in mid-October, 2015.
6. The Watermaster continued to attend meetings with various agencies and/or NGOs with regard to: possible uses of runoff within the Los Angeles River; the possibility of using recycled water from LA's Tillman Plant for artificial recharge in the San Fernando Basin via spreading basins; and stormwater conservation and capture. Injection wells, which had been previously been a part of LA's recycled water plan, at the request of the Watermaster, has recently been removed from the plan because of various factors,



including regulatory hurdles, and the possibility that direct potable reuse is now being considered by regulatory agencies.

7. The Watermaster reviewed and either approved or denied, based on site-specific conditions, the Low Impact Development (LID projects within the City of Los Angeles portions of ULARA (i.e., San Fernando & Sylmar basins). These LIDs are for new developments and/or redevelopments in L.A. County, and are based on NPDES regulations promulgated by the RWQCB in 1990 to help minimize the impacts on the Los Angeles River, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean, by reducing the volume and improving the quality of storm water runoff from storm events.

Recently, LADWP has expressed interest in streamlining this process as it relates to Watermaster approval to reduce the amount of time dedicated to Watermaster review, while maintaining Watermaster involvement; the Watermaster supports this change. The Watermaster and key LADWP staff met with the Bureau of Sanitation on October 15 to discuss the matter further. LADWP is now reviewing the matter internally. The adjoining cities of Burbank, Glendale, and San Fernando have always provided their own in-house review of LIDs within their respective cities.

8. The Watermaster has worked closely with the City of Burbank during their negotiations with a local cemetery to convert their operations to recycled water. The Watermaster supports increased use of recycled water within ULARA.

B. Salt & Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP)

The Watermaster continues work for the SNMP for the 4 groundwater basins within ULARA. Each Party has a 2-member group to serve on the SNMP subcommittee formed by the Watermaster. This subcommittee most recently met on December 9, 2015, and the next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2016. Key RWQCB-LA representatives are invited to these meetings to maintain liaison and to keep them informed of the progress of the study.

The Watermaster has also subcontracted with 4 outside consultants for assistance with certain issues regarding the CEQA, public participation/outreach, recycled water elements, and spreadsheet modeling, all of which also need to be included in the SNMP. Currently the focus of the SNMP work continues to be compiling the data necessary to begin the analytical modeling process, and preparing various Technical Memoranda to describe in-progress work and our ongoing findings.

Technical Memorandum 1 was distributed to the Parties for review on October 23. The document will soon be posted to the ULARA website for public review and comment. A draft of the second Technical Memorandum (Tech Memo 4) was distributed on November 5, 2015 to the Parties for comment.

A Draft of the entire SNMP document is to be provided to the RWQCB this year.